

The new, national data warehouse is getting closer!

ITSC (dedicated Data Warehouse [DW] Project, National Patient Information Reporting System [NPIRS], and Software Development [SD] staff) and the Indian Health Performance Evaluation System program (Phoenix Area and ITSC staff assigned to that program) are collaborating to stand up the first production version of the new Data Warehouse (DW1). If all goes according to schedule, we will begin loading data into the DW1 by December 1. Once loaded, DW1 will operate in parallel with the current production national databases (NPIRS and ORYX) through the succeeding annual reporting cycle and, once the systems are tested and verified, will replace the NPIRS and ORYX databases, becoming the production national reporting system for our Indian Health systems by the fall of 2004.

The DW is a new, state-of-the-art system for gathering, storing, and then reporting information to the various components of our Indian Health systems. As part of this first production version we will be creating a central DW database that will provide a relatively complete, historical repository of patient registration and encounter information dating back to October 2000. The DW database will, in turn, provide information to three data marts: an administrative, a clinical, and a data tracking/data quality data mart.

The Administrative Data Marts will be a collection of databases and other systems that will provide our program managers and statisticians information that will allow us to better manage our healthcare programs. These data marts will produce, for example, the annual Workload and User Population reports, allow us to verify social security numbers and report verification status to our colleagues at local facilities, as well as provide administrators and statistical officers ad hoc access to a wide range of primarily administrative information.

The Clinical Data Marts will be a collection of systems that will provide our clinicians and clinical program managers the kinds of information they need to better provide and assure high quality healthcare services. The IHPES program will use this system to generate its ORYX reports for local facilities. The Diabetes, Cancer, and Health Education programs will use these data marts to provide required reports to Agency management, the Department, Congress, and the Administration and to better manage their programs. In addition, these data marts will provide clinical managers at the local, Area, and national levels ad hoc access to a wide range of information required for internal program use.

The Export Tracking/Data Quality Data Mart will provide information to local facilities and Area offices confirming the complete and accurate receipt of data sent to the DW, will monitor certain historical trends so that we can proactively notify facilities if some data appears to be incomplete, will provide detailed information to local facilities about the quality of the data they are gathering and identify opportunities for improvement, etc. The goal of this data mart will be to foster a partnership between those at local sites, Area offices, and ITSC to ensure that the information in our various information systems is the highest quality possible (for local as well as Area office and national purposes), and that the data the DW receives in order to generate some of its most critical reports is complete and accurate.

An important part of DW1 will be to begin to thoroughly analyze current data, identify opportunities to improve, and plan for additional data marts. Soon after DW1 is successfully stood up and verified, we will begin to work with our colleagues within and outside of ITSC to help plan for various other data marts. Over time, these could include, for example, pharmacy, Area, Urban program, epidemiology, PHN, business office, dental, and behavioral health data marts.